Year	Revenue (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	300.61
1992-93	360.23
1993-94	372.98
1994-95	398.02
1995-96	430.13

The Government does not maintain records of revenue earned by foreign/ private TV channels.

(b) The information is not maintained centrally in a compiled form.

(c) The procedure for assessment and collection of taxes from foreign television channels on their earnings from advertisements is the same as in other cases. However, keeping in view the problems in computation of income in the cases of foreign telecasting companies which do not have any branch office or permanent establishment in India or are not maintaining country-wise accounts, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued guidelines for computing the taxable income by adopting presumptive profit rate of 10% of the gross receipts meant for remittance abroad or the income returned by such companies whichever is higher.

Facilities to Thalessemia Patients in Madhya Pradesh

1619. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a major programme to make pure blood available at the district and sub-divisional hospitals in Madhya Pradesh and other States of the country to the children suffering from Thalessamia particularly for those poor children who cannot afford blood from private blood banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other facilities are being provided/are proposed to be provided to Thalessamia patients in Madhya Pradesh by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) For providing safe blood to needy persons, including thalessemia patients, under the Blood Safety component of National AIDS Control Programme, Govt. have set up a network of 154 Zonal Blood testing centres all over the country with linkages to blood Banks in Govt., Voluntary and Private Blood banks. The Blood Banks located in the Govt. Sectors are also being modernised with basic blood bank equipment and recurring grant to purchase blood bags and test kits for testing of blood for blood transmissible disease, namely, hepatitis, Syphilis and Malaria. In Madhya Pradesh, 9 Zonal Blood Testing Centres have been established and all the 49 Govt. Blood Banks have been modernised. Three Blood Banks *viz.* (i) Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital Blood Bank, Indore, (ii) Hamedia Hospital Medical College, Bhopal and (iii) Blood Bank, Gwalior Medical College Hospital, have also been modernised in respect of Blood Component manufacturing. Government have exempted Custom duty on Desferral injection to Thalesmic patients who are also being given priority for provision of blood subject to its availablity.

Medium and Long Range Debt

1620. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total medium and long term debt of the country as on 30th June, 1996;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said debt is higher than the national assets;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to reduce the external debt?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the latest available estimates, the total medium and long term external debt of the country as on 30.09.1995 is Rs. 303071 crores. This is lower than the net capital stock of the country as on March 31, 1995 (Quick Estimates).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government has been following a prudent debt management strategy aimed at reducing the debt se ratio to comfortable levels. This includes measures to promote the growth of exports and other current receipts, reduce the growth of total debt, reduce the growth of expensive and short term component of debt and to encourage non-debt creating inflows such as foreign investment.

Amount Spent on Development of Tourism

1621. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of amount spent by the centre during the last year to promote tourism in the country;

(b) the number of tourists have come to India during last year;

(c) whether Government have received any new proposals for tourism development if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have considered the scope of Kerala as a tourist centre; and

(e) whether the Central Government have any special programme for tourism development in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India, has released an amount of Rs. 1751.48 lakhs for 182 projects during 1995-96 to State/Union Territory Government for the development/promotion of tourism.

(b) 2.19 million foreign tourists visited India during 1995-96.

(c) The Government has identified 116 projects for Central Financial Assistance during 1996-97 in consultation with the State/Union Territory Governments for development of tourist infrastructure.

(d) and (e) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Government. However, the Department of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for specific projects to the State Governments based on their merits, inter se priority and availability of funds. For the year 1996-97, the Department has identified four projects in consultation with the State Government for providing Central Financial Assistance to Kerala. Bekal Beach in Kerala has been indentified as special tourism area for the development of tourism in the State.

Loan by Asian Development Bank to Gujarat

1622. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed loan of one billion US dollars of the Asian Development Bank to Gujarat has been finalised;

(b) if so, when and whether the State Government has been sounded in this regard for its utilisation;

(c) the sector in which this loan has been earmarked for utilisation; and

(d) the total amount so far released and utilised by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) ADB have agreed in principal to extend